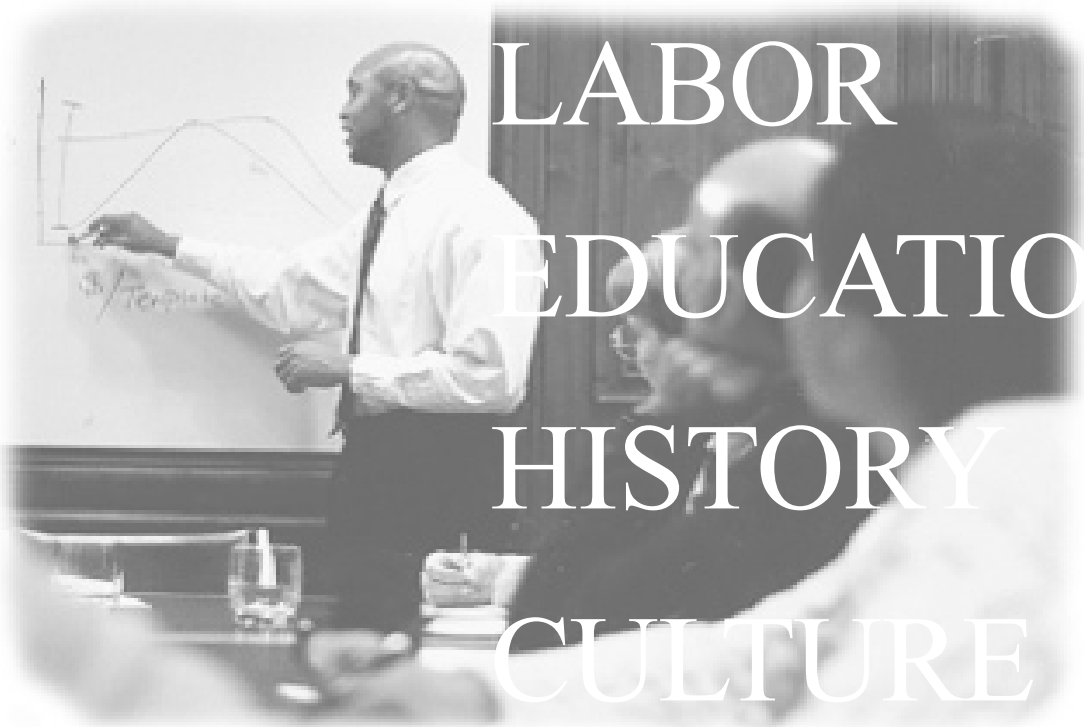


# CAMERON



# PARISH

*“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”*

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12


**CAMERON  
PARISH**

# Cameron Parish

**Cameron Parish  
Tourist Commission**  
P.O. Box 388  
Cameron, LA 70631  
318-474-6598

**Regional Office of  
Public Health**  
Howard Dohn Alexander  
Regional Administrator  
Southwest Regional  
Office  
4240 Senator J.  
Bennett Johnson Ave.  
Lake Charles, LA  
70615  
337-491-2040  
337-491-2041 fax

## History<sup>1</sup>

Cameron Parish, among the largest in land area in the state, was organized on March 15, 1870. The parish reportedly took its name from Simon Cameron, Lincoln's secretary of war. Early records are sketchy, and comprise the history of several large southwest Louisiana parishes, including Vermilion and Calcasieu. Many of the early wooden courthouses have burned, thus destroying records. Early settlers' names include the Elenders, Deuhons, Faulks, Heberts, Smiths, and Domingos. Early records of

Grand Chenier include the names of Placide Labove, who settled in 1836, and John Smith, John Armstrong, John Sweeney, and James Welse, all settlers who came before 1850. The earliest inhabitants were the Attakapas Indians in the southwesternmost region of the area. Recollections of the early days tell of the enormous orange crops, with some trees producing 5,000 oranges. During the growing season, schooners came from Galveston, Texas, to buy the crops. Despite the devastation caused by Hurricane "Audrey" and others, the parish has always been rebuilt and continues to grow and prosper.



## Culture and Recreation<sup>3</sup>

Cameron Parish is home to four wildlife refuges. Hunting, fishing, crabbing, shelling, and birdwatching will entice visitors of all ages. The marsh flowers and birds, alligators, and marsh animals are prevalent in all refuges and along the roads leading into the parish. Over 20,000 people visit the Cameron Refuges on a monthly basis. The Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival is held each January. The Alligator Harvest Festival is held in September and the Cajun Riviera Festival in August attracts over 13,000 people. New to the area is the recently dedicated Veterans Honor Wall in front of the Cameron Parish Courthouse. The wall honors veterans of all wars, living or deceased, and includes over 1,600 names.

**Parish Seat<sup>1</sup>** ..... Cameron<sup>1</sup>

**Major Cities** (over 5,000 population)<sup>2</sup>

None

## Parish Population<sup>2</sup>

1990 .....	9,260
1997 (estimate) .....	9,171

Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)<sup>6</sup>

White .....	93%
African American .....	6%
Other .....	1%
Male .....	50%
Female .....	50%
Population age 0-4 .....	8%
Population age 65 & over .....	11%

**Geography and Statistics<sup>2</sup>**

Average elevation .....	5 ft.
Land area in square miles .....	1,313
Water area in square miles <sup>4</sup> .....	618.7

**Climate<sup>2</sup>**

## Average temperatures

Annual .....	69°
January .....	56°
July .....	81°
Annual average rainfall .....	74.6 in.

**Labor Force (1995)<sup>1</sup>**

Civilian .....	3,740
Employed .....	3,490
Unemployed .....	250
Unemployment .....	6.6 %

**Agriculture<sup>1</sup>**

Rice, corn, oil and related industries, fur and wildlife, fishing, shrimping and vegetable farming.

**Colleges/Universities<sup>2</sup>**

(within one hour commute)

None

**Public Libraries<sup>5</sup> ..... 1***References*

- <sup>1</sup> Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- <sup>2</sup> Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lled.state.la.us>

**Educational Attainment (1990)<sup>7</sup>**

Less than 5th grade .....	5.3%
High school graduate or higher .....	61.1%
Some college or higher .....	20.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher .....	7.9%

**Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees<sup>2</sup>****Private Employers**

Zapata Haynie Corporation (Fish meal/Oil/Solubles) .....	200
Cameron Communications (Telephone/Cable/TV) .....	100
Carson Offshore Boats (Boat crews) .....	85

**Public Employers**

Cameron Parish School Board (Education) .....	340
South Cameron Memorial Hospital (Medical) .....	140
Cameron Parish Police Jury (Government) .....	113

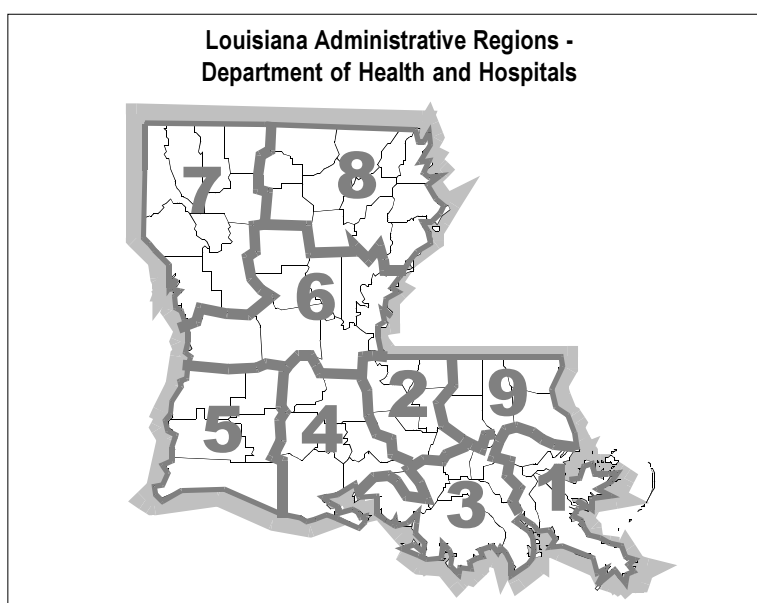
**Poverty and Income**

Persons in poverty (1995) <sup>7</sup> .....	14.1%
Children under age 18 in poverty <sup>7</sup> .....	18.8%
Per capita income (1996) <sup>8</sup> .....	\$15,610



**CAMERON  
PARISH**

- <sup>3</sup> Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- <sup>4</sup> Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- <sup>5</sup> State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- <sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>.



#### **Region 7**

Bienville  
Bossier  
Caddo  
Claiborne  
DeSoto  
Natchitoches  
Red River  
Sabine  
Webster

#### **Region 8**

Caldwell  
East Carroll  
Franklin  
Jackson  
Lincoln  
Madison  
Morehouse  
Ouachita  
Richland  
Tensas  
Union  
West Carroll

#### **Region 9**

Livingston  
St. Helena  
St. Tammany  
Tangipahoa  
Washington

#### **Region 1**

Jefferson  
Orleans  
Plaquemines  
St. Bernard

#### **Region 2**

Ascension  
East Baton Rouge  
East Feliciana  
Iberville  
Pointe Coupee  
West Baton Rouge  
West Feliciana

#### **Region 3**

Assumption  
Lafourche  
St. Charles  
St. James  
St. John  
St. Mary  
Terrebonne

#### **Region 4**

Acadia  
Evangeline  
Iberia  
Lafayette  
St. Landry  
St. Martin  
Vermilion

#### **Region 5**

Allen  
Beauregard  
Calcasieu  
Cameron  
Jefferson Davis

#### **Region 6**

Avoyelles  
Catahoula  
Concordia  
Grant  
LaSalle  
Rapides  
Vernon  
Winn